



## FEAR COPS NOT CRIME

Why the Tory  
attempt to  
whip up fear is  
an excuse for  
a crackdown  
>>Pages 10&11



## POPULAR FRONT OF FAILURES

Paul Mason's call for unity  
against Brexit will repeat past  
mistakes >>Pages 14&15

# Socialist Worker

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## TORIES RAMP UP RACISM



# JOHNSON OUT



# MIGRANTS IN

## DEFEND FREE MOVEMENT

### ASIA

#### Million march for democracy in Hong Kong

SOME 1.7 million people  
marched in Hong Kong on  
Sunday as the  
pro-democracy movement  
there entered its 11th week.

Demands include the  
withdrawal of the extradition  
bill, an independent inquiry  
into police actions, the release  
of arrested protesters and  
genuine democracy.

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### RETAIL



#### Bullying at Asda adds to anger over contracts

ASDA BOSSES claim workers  
have signed a punitive  
new contract because it  
increases take home pay.

But documents seen by  
Socialist Worker show that  
bosses have threatened  
workers with the sack.

And a GMB union rep has  
described how bosses have  
pressured workers.

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### CLIMATE

#### Dead glacier is proof that time is running out

PEOPLE IN Iceland held a  
“funeral” last Sunday for  
the country's first glacier  
lost to climate change.

It underlines the need for  
urgent action—including with  
a strike for the climate on  
20 September and protests by  
Extinction Rebellion.

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## THE THINGS THEY SAY

**'Perpetrators AND victims come disproportionately from black and minority ethnic communities. That is not a racist slur. It's a fact'**

The Daily Mail defends Priti Patel's move to print knife crime warnings on chicken boxes

**'Freak yachting accidents do happen in August...'**

Friend of Nigel Farage Aaron Banks responds to Greta Thunberg's yacht voyage

**'I'm getting a bit fed up with all this dickbraine stuff. It's time to change my name to stop the bullying'**

Ukip's leader Richard Braine gets the hump after being mocked over his name

**'This reflects our commitment to the sugar reduction programme'**

Bakers Greggs defends its cutting of the custard in a custard slice while not cutting the price



# Tory plans for retirement at 75 means working till death

THE STATE pension age is set to rise to 75 over the next 16 years. That's if Boris Johnson's favourite think tank gets its way.

It would go up to 70 just nine years from now.

A report by the Centre for Social Justice says the current government plan to raise the pension age to 67 in 2028, then 68 by 2046 is too slow.

The Centre for Social Justice is chaired by millionaire ex-welfare Secretary and Tory leader Iain Duncan Smith—and Tory governments get many of their ideas from it.

In 2009 it dreamed up Universal Credit, adopted as policy by PM David Cameron a year later.

Jan Shortt of the National Pensioners Convention is angry. "The longer you work the more ill you become and the less likely you are to even

reach retirement age," he added.

Life expectancy in Britain is no longer rising, partly as a result of austerity policies.

And the poorer you are the sooner you die.

An official report this year found, "In England, men resident in the least deprived areas could expect 13.3 years of good health from 65 years of age, but only 5.8 years if resident in the most

deprived areas."

And in Scotland men have an average life expectancy of 77. Labour's 2017 manifesto said, "The pension age is due to rise to 66 by the end of 2020."

"Labour rejects the Conservatives' proposal to increase the state pension age even further."

In fact 66 is already an excessive age to wait to receive a pension.

Bosses can retire much earlier.

A TUC report in 2015 found that, "Of those companies that disclosed retirement ages for executive pension schemes, 60 was the most common."

Why should a postal worker or a cleaner or a construction worker be working to 68 or into their seventies while the boss luxuriates on a big payout?

Iain Duncan Smith—ideas to make your life worse

**TROUBLEMAKER REPORTS**—belatedly—a savage attack on a Rees-Mogg. In 1852 the *Sherborne Mercury* reported rioting at a election hustings. "J Rees Mogg, Esq was beaten by the rioters and escaped into a nearby house." The mob, which had gathered in the Somerset village of Clutton, "took the hats off the Conservatives and flung them in their faces. Barrels of beer were served. This did not tranquilise the mob."

Rees-Mogg

**CHILDREN** scavenge in bins for food and eat toilet paper to beat hunger, said charity Meals for More. Up to 4.1 million children are at risk. Some 53 percent are under five, up from 51 percent last year, and 700,000 are in "severe" poverty, up from 600,000.

## State secrets will be staying secret again

THE NATIONAL Archives is holding on to more secret papers thanks to government "weeder" who carefully scrutinise every document.

More than 300 due to be released have been withheld.

This adds to the mounting pile of documents that, in their view, should be kept secret from the public for up to 100 years—or even indefinitely.

The latest pile includes files on "deaths and administration of detention camps in Kenya" in 1959, and "discussions on the defence of Hong Kong 1957-61".

One withheld paper

is called, "Security: handling and destruction of classified documents, 1989-94".

Files, some relating to the royal family and to "Tube Alloys"—Whitehall code for Britain's early nuclear weapons programme—now helpfully have "no description available".

Not for your eyes

## Tory tax avoiding ports get go-ahead

BRITAIN'S onshore tax havens—freeports—are going ahead under new international trade secretary Liz Truss.

She arrived at her department and told staff how fabulous it was to be "in such a hot room because, let me tell you, trade is hot".

Truss unveiled a freeports advisory panel. The panel's "tax specialist" is Tom Clougherty of the Centre for Policy Studies.

One piece Clougherty wrote for the ConservativeHome website was titled, "In defence of tax havens." He wrote that "the

existence of low tax jurisdictions gives people and companies an exit option—sometimes legal, sometimes not—through which they can escape from unfair and punitive rates of taxation".

He added that tax havens play "an important role in making international capital

Tom Clougherty

## Brexit Party out of Dundee

THE BREXIT Party has cancelled a rally in Dundee after anti-racists organised to protest against it. Nigel Farage's party had been due to gather in Dundee on 12 September as part of a "conference tour".

But it was cancelled apparently due to "time constraints". A Brexit Party spokesperson said, "We are preparing for a general election and have trimmed down the Brexit Party tour."

But the Dundee event is the only one to be cancelled—ten others remain, including in Doncaster, Southport, Newport, Exeter and London.

Activists plan to hold protests at other events against the party's vile racism.

## GOING DOWN



**Michael Hasenstab** lost nearly £1.6 billion in a single day gambling the wrong way on the Argentinian economy. Hasenstab, manager at California-based Franklin Templeton, has been one of the biggest buyers of Argentinian debt

## Police failed murder victim

POLICE IN North Wales failed to respond to 13 reports from a woman about her abusive ex-partner—who eventually murdered her.

Jason Cooper was jailed for a minimum of 31 years after being found guilty of Laura Stuart's murder.

Laura had contacted police 13 times to report harassment, domestic abuse, assault and threats to kill over a two-year period.

She reported that Cooper was threatening "to finish her" just days before she was killed in August 2017.

The cops' pet watchdog, the Independent Office for Police Complaints, found that worried relatives and the ambulance service had made a further five complaints to the police.

Cooper was never arrested or questioned.

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# Iceland's 'dead' glacier is proof time is running out

by GABBY THORPE

**PEOPLE IN Iceland held a "funeral" last Sunday for the country's first glacier lost to climate change.**

The Okjokull ice sheet in western Iceland no longer exists.

According to satellite images from the Nasa Earth Observatory, the glacier appeared as a solid white patch in 1986. Icelandic geologist Oddur Sigurosson said it used to stretch six square miles.

A geological map from 1901 estimated Okjokull spanned an area of about 15 square miles.

But a Nasa image from 1 August this year shows that only small dashes of white ice remained.

This is a further example of the need for urgent action on climate change—including the 20 September strike for the climate.

## Rising

Up to 200 climate activists gathered over the weekend for Extinction Rebellion's (XR) south east London Rebel Rising festival. This was the first of many uprisings set for August and September.

The event took place on Blackheath Common and included music, citizens' assemblies and workshops.

A panel discussed the next steps in the movement against the planned construction of the Silvertown Tunnel that will run under the Thames.

Activists held two die-ins over the course of the festival. The first was aimed at highlighting the urgency of the climate crisis.

Some 150 protesters marched from Blackheath Common to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich.

XR said it chose this site because of the Greenwich Meridian, located at the observatory.

It said, "The Greenwich Meridian is located at longitude zero and is the standard by which all time



ACTIVISTS JOINED a die-in at Royal Observatory in south London last weekend

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

is measured. We will use this to symbolise that we have zero time and that we need to act now on climate change."

The second die in, at the National Maritime Museum on Sunday, protested against what XR is calling "the new black death"—mass extinction of animals and plants.

Shannon, an activist who attended the event said, "The Rebel Rising is about coming together as a community to say no to climate change."

"This is not just our future, but

the future of our children. We want to tell the people who contribute to the climate emergency that we're not prepared to let that happen."

Another activist said that he hoped that the Rebel Risings would make more people feel more comfortable about speaking out against the problems facing the planet.

"These events are to show people how to use their voices to make a change in society," he said.

"The governments and businesses of the world are killing the planet. A

lot of people find it hard to speak up. But we have to do it now before it's too late."

Eight more Rebel Risings are set to take place in Aberdeen, Borth, Brighton, Cambridge, Devon, Manchester—and a further two in London. XR hopes to use these events to prepare for another international rebellion set to take place on 7 October.

To find out more information about upcoming Rebel Risings go to [bit.ly/rebelrisings](http://bit.ly/rebelrisings)

## Portsmouth protesters point finger at polluters

SOME 70 protesters in Portsmouth joined Extinction Rebellion (XR) in marching to some of the worst air pollution hotspots in Britain.

XR has declared these areas as toxic air zones.

The levels of pollution have been attributed to traffic and ships burning oil.

Nitrogen dioxide has reached law breaking levels in 14 of the places

named. Pollution is worse in the poorest parts of Portsmouth.

Demands have been made for free public transport, run by the council, to help workers and to reduce pollution produced.

The protest ended with a die-in at Guildhall Square.

School students and workers met to make plans for the climate strike taking place on 20 September.

Thanks to Jon Woods



## LGBT+

## Kiss-in to beat back the bigots

LGBT+ PEOPLE staged a "kiss-in" against homophobia in central London last week.

Around 100 protesters snogged, danced and chanted, "We're here, we're queer—don't fuck with us," and, "Boris Johnson bog right off, you homophobic Tory toff."

The kiss-in came against the backdrop of a rise in hate crimes against LGBT+ people in Britain. In London they increased from 1,488 in 2014 to 2,308 in 2018.

Jaroslav from the Polish Rainbow in the UK group told the rally he feared going out after he suffered a homophobic assault in south London.

"I came to Britain because life as a gay person in Poland is shit," he said.

"I found an ocean of acceptance—or so I thought."

"During 15 years in London it had never happened, then I experienced the rise in attacks."

"It took me three months to leave the house, it took



Kissing against bigotry

me six months to go back to work."

Sophie, a trans woman and Labour Party member, said, "I'm not here because I want to be—I'm here because I need to be."

"There is no safe space for trans people."

Nicola Field, one the organisers, argued for a "new wave of queer militancy against oppression".

"Let's give the bigots hell and drive them back into the sewers where they belong."

The kiss-in also came amid a growing attempt by bigots to roll back LGBT education in schools.

Ejel Khan of the Muslim LGBT Network spoke about the need to fight back against hate crimes. "We have to make sure people are safe," he said.

Longer report at [bit.ly/KissInLDN](http://bit.ly/KissInLDN)

## Breakfast in



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# Threat for 2 million EU migrants in Tory Brexit

Whether you voted Leave or Remain, we should all defend migrants' rights, writes Tomáš Tengely-Evans

**TORY DIVISIONS** were inflamed by the leak of a "top secret" Brexit planning document last Saturday.

Allies of Boris Johnson blamed a group of former ministers for leaking the dossier, named Operation Yellowhammer.

It details how the Tory government would "manage short-term disruption" to supplies if Britain leaves the European Union (EU) without a deal on 31 October.

The Tory former ministers, led by chancellor Philip Hammond, want to stop a no-deal Brexit.

They echo big business demands to stay within the EU's single market because its free market rules protect profits.

## Shock

Tory right wingers see the potential shock of a no-deal Brexit as an opportunity to push through more racist scapegoating.

Home secretary Priti Patel said the government would end free movement on 1 November, the day after a no-deal Brexit would go through.

The plan would mean imposing a new immigration system in nine weeks' time.

This would make the hostile environment even worse for migrants.

## BACK STORY

The Tories are using Brexit as an excuse to strengthen Britain's vicious immigration system.

- They are forcing European Union (EU) migrants to register in order to stay after Britain leaves the EU

- It's a disgraceful attack on nearly three million people who have made their lives in Britain—some for many decades

- Attacks on migrants encourage racism and help to divide ordinary people

The government last week said that EU migrants would have to pass residency tests to receive free NHS care under a no-deal Brexit.

This wouldn't just affect new migrants from the EU.

Of the over three million EU migrants already living in Britain, at least two million do not yet have the legal right to remain under the registration scheme.

Hundreds of thousands face the prospect of legal limbo in a no-deal Brexit.

The government has quietly brought forward the deadline for applying for the EU Settlement



DEFEND THE rights of EU migrants

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Scheme to 31 December 2020. Home Office figures published last week showed a backlog of over 100,000 applications.

The EU Settlement Scheme does not guarantee migrants' rights in law.

## Change

It was brought in as a piece of "secondary legislation", meaning the Tories could change it without a parliamentary vote.

Only 64 percent of the one million applications that already processed were given "settled status", according to the Home Office statistics.

Some 36 percent were given "pre-settled status" with fewer rights because they had not lived in Britain for over five years.

The Brexit choices put forward by the government will all be bad for workers and migrants' rights because they are based on Tory policies of austerity and racism.

The Labour Party has focused on the impact of a no-deal Brexit on big business.

It has not emphasised demands to protect the rights of workers and migrants.

Its immigration policy involves dumping freedom of movement and

introducing a "skills-based immigration system". This increases division among workers, giving ground to the myth that some migrants drive down wages.

All forms of division in the working class make it harder to resist the Tories and bosses' attacks.

Anti-racists—whether they voted Leave or Remain—have to fight to defend and extend freedom of movement.

**On other pages...**  
Fear the cops, not crime  
>> Pages 10&11

## Lock-in protest against evictions in Glasgow

ANTI-RACIST ACTIVISTS staged a "lock-in" of Glasgow City Council on Tuesday.

The protest was called by Living Rent Glasgow tenants' union against the threat of eviction facing 300 asylum seekers in the city.

Serco, which runs the housing on behalf of the Home Office, wants to clear the buildings before new subcontractor Mears takes over in September.

Mears has said it wants to take over empty properties.

Serco has sent some tenants



Protesting against racism in Glasgow

letters warning that it would change their locks, rather than using bailiffs to forcibly throw them out.

It hopes to get around the need to have a court order—a requirement for an eviction under Scottish law.

Protesters demanded that the council, run by the Scottish National Party, gives more than "reports of empty promises" and shows Serco it's not welcome in the city.

It will take direct action to stop evictions.

## Failing Nazis cancel rally for Robinson in London

SUPPORTERS OF jailed Nazi Tommy Robinson have called off a protest planned to take place in London on Saturday.

An article on the fascist TR News website said the rally was called because of heavy policing and the far left.

But it said that some Nazis might still "be going or intending to go into London" on the day.

Stand Up To Racism and Unite Against Fascism had called a counter-protest.

But they cancelled it when the Nazis called theirs off.

The Nazi rally was called off amid infighting in the Robinson camp and declining numbers on their protests.

Only 400 Nazis showed up to a national mobilisation outside BBC Broadcasting House earlier this month.

## Suffered

While the Nazis have suffered setbacks, they are still dangerous.

Left wing personality Owen Jones was attacked in a pub in north London last Saturday. Jones was told that "far right football hooligans were boasting in closed groups along the lines of "Owen Jones has been done in, in Islington".

Anti-Nazis must remain ready to oppose the far right on the streets.

## EU borders cause almost 1,000 migrant deaths

OVER 800 refugees have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea between January and August, according to the International Organisation for Migration.

The majority of the 843 deaths—578—took place in the central Mediterranean between Libya and Italy.

This is the deadliest route for refugees trying to make it to safety in Europe.

Successive clampdowns by the European Union (EU) and its member states have shut off safer ones. And now the Italian route could become deadlier still.

Italy's far right interior minister Matteo Salvini has pushed through a law that levies huge fines on search and rescue boats.

Captains can be fined £920,000 if they dock in an Italian port without permission.

The will deter charities from running rescue missions.

Meanwhile, the EU is spending £95 million on surveillance drones that can inform the Libyan coast guards of refugee



An EU border guard

boats' position.

Guards will take refugees back to North Africa, where they face slave auctions, sexual abuse and torture.

Refugees are fleeing war, dictatorship, poverty and climate change—the only solution is to open the border and let them in.

**Socialist Worker**  
WHAT WE THINK

## CORBYN'S CONFUSION EMBOLDENS THE RIGHT

**L**ABOUR WILL commit to holding a referendum on a Brexit deal, if there is a general election in autumn, with an option to remain in the European Union (EU).

But it hasn't said what it will do if there isn't a general election in autumn. And it might not take a position in that referendum even if it has negotiated its own Brexit deal—which it could do.

Or it could not.

Confused? Don't worry. The confusion is Labour's.

Labour has been caught in a bind since the EU referendum in 2016. Many working class people—the people it looks to for votes—support leaving the EU.

But a vocal set of right wing Labour MPs want to push the party towards opposing Brexit.

They support the EU because they like its pro-privatisation,

pro-austerity rules that look after big business.

They're increasingly cheer-led by prominent left Labour supporters, and backed by the Labour Party's membership.

The Labour left now largely sees backing Remain as the only progressive response to the

Tories' racist, right wing version of

Brexit. So at every step Labour's position on Brexit has been just enough to sound, on the surface, as if it means something.

But it's always contained enough vagueness and caveats to leave space for different interpretations, adjustments and backsliding.

Labour has been pushed to the limits of what its official position—decided at its conference last year—allows. This says Labour might support a referendum if it cannot get a general election.

But in a speech on Monday, Jeremy Corbyn said Labour now wants both. The new confusion is over what Labour's position would be in that referendum.

Corbyn wouldn't commit.

**Labour's position on Brexit has been just enough to sound as if it means something**

But shadow chancellor John McDonnell said he would support Remain.

Given that the referendum could be on a deal negotiated by Corbyn's caretaker government, he could end up opposing his own party.

This year's Labour conference is set to begin on 22 September. Labour will be consumed with arguments over whether to back Remain.

The anti-austerity, radical-sounding message that worked so well for Labour in 2017 is at risk of being drowned out.

Where demonstrations and action on the streets against the Tories could have dominated, opposition has focused on parliamentary manoeuvres and inter-party wrangling.

This is the right's terrain—the left is always weaker on it.

The bulk of Corbyn's speech on Monday—attacking austerity and tax cuts for the rich, promising more for ordinary people—got almost ignored by the press.

The longer Corbyn spends giving into the right over the EU, the more he allows them to set the agenda and sideline left wing politics.

## BRITISH ARMS IN YEMEN

**M**ORE EVIDENCE of Britain's role in Saudi Arabia's war on Yemen was uncovered this week.

A United Nations (UN) panel found fragments of British-made laser guidance missile systems at the site of an air raid in the Middle Eastern country.

It concluded that the air raid, which took place in September 2016, had breached international humanitarian law.

A month before the raid then foreign secretary Boris Johnson

said he was happy for Britain to sell arms to Saudi Arabia.

UN experts found a guidance unit for a "high explosive" bomb, stamped with the name of a Brighton-based based company, EDO MBM Technology Ltd.

They also found missile parts from the same British factory at the Alsonidar complex following a second bombing nine days later.

The Tories have allowed at least £4.7 billion in weapons exports to Saudi Arabia, a key ally of Western imperialism, since it begin its war

on Yemen. Over 50,000 people have died in the bombings and the famine that war has caused.

At the beginning of September in east London over 1,000 arms dealers will try to sell weaponry to 30,000 government officials from across the world. The UN revelations are a powerful reason to join the week of protests outside the DSEI arms fair.

Protest against the arms fair at the Excel Centre from 2-8 September. Turn to page 19 for more or go to **Stop The Arms Fair** on Facebook

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NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION

**PROTEST** AT THE **TORY PARTY CONFERENCE**

**MANCHESTER** 29 SEPTEMBER 2019

ASSEMBLE: 12 NOON OXFORD RD.

AGAINST AUSTERITY

THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

@ThePeoplesAssembly @peoplesassembly @peoplesassembly



## ANALYSIS

SIMON BASKETTER



## Epstein case shows the system's abuses

**JEFFREY EPSTEIN, the rich child rapist, is dead after taking his own life. That is a slightly more controversial statement than might be imagined.**

While Donald Trump thinks Hillary Clinton killed him, others think the British royal family are in the frame.

For others, these theories are what “they” want you to believe—because Epstein is still alive and was spirited out of the prison, and a body double deployed.

Conspiracies gain global traction when they have a reason to be believed.

There are many questions that remain unanswered and Epstein's death is clearly a very welcome relief for some rich people.

The global elite hide their money and much of their lifestyle. It is easy to think, when some of their activities do leak out, that there is a plot.

The ruling class does want to control society and acts in secretive, undemocratic ways to do it.

And the failure of the media and politicians to hold governments and business to account leads some to look to conspiracies for answers.

So when the British weapons inspector David Kelly was found dead in 2003, many believed he had been murdered.

This was precisely because people had lost trust in the government during the build-up to the war in Iraq.

It is not clear yet whether Epstein kept dossiers, pictures and videos implicating the rich and powerful as a bargaining chip for influence or whether it was just how he and his mates got their sordid kicks.

The picture on the wall of Epstein's house of Bill Clinton in a stained blue dress—a reference to Clinton's abuse of Monica Lewinsky—the naked models and the walls of glass eyes are what passes as eccentric if you are rich enough.

Epstein's contact book contains many of the world's important people and many of their hangers-on.

To be in the book doesn't make you an abuser.

But it does beg a question about the activities of those listed who went to the parties or met Epstein at a charity gala, or took a flight in his jet.

### Teenage

Did they ask about or even feel concerned for the teenage girls he had with him?

Harder questions should also be asked of prince Andrew, who is seen in a video waving goodbye to a woman leaving Epstein's house. This is after Epstein was convicted of abuse.

The press repeats the Palace's denials of wrongdoing. But it still hasn't explained why Andrew was photographed with a woman who says Epstein forced her to have sex with the prince.

These scandals show the tawdry contempt with which those at the top of our society treat others. They do conspire and they do cover up – but far from being an all-powerful clique, our rulers can be brought down. That is what they are most scared of.

Another royal helps us understand this.

Lord Mountbatten was killed along with his teenage grandson Nicholas Knatchbull and the 15 year old deckhand Paul Maxwell by an IRA bomb in 1979.

The senior royal and former head of the armed forces had, according to newly released FBI documents, had “a perversion for young boys”.

Maybe Mountbatten wasn't a child abuser. But he did have a role in a real conspiracy.

Mountbatten came close to leading a cabal of industrialists, generals and tycoons plotting a coup against an elected Labour government.

The 1968 plot was designed to replace Harold Wilson, then the Labour prime minister, with a national government led by either fascist Oswald Mosley or Mountbatten.

While they decided against it, the security services ran a serious operation to destabilise the Wilson government.

One offshoot of that operation was the cover-up—at best—of information about systematic child abuse, including by the rich and powerful.

So while Epstein's abuse and that of his friends are not central to how the system works, by lifting the rock on that abuse they can reveal some of the poison at the system's heart.



PROTESTERS CALLING for independence in Aberdeen last Saturday

PICTURES: LINDA SMITH

# Aberdeen protest demands independence for Scotland

**THOUSANDS OF people supporting independence for Scotland joined a march through Aberdeen last Saturday.**

Organisers said over 12,000 people were on the All Under One Banner (AUOB) protest.

A spokesperson for AUOB said, “It was a fantastic day, with a massive turnout from people across the north-east of Scotland and further afield.”

“People are saying it is the biggest demonstration for independence Aberdeen has ever seen.”

Transport was organised from across Scotland.

Keir McKechnie, chief steward on the march, said, “Many protesters had never been to an independence demonstration before.”

### Voted

“A lot said they had voted No in the 2014 independence referendum, but Boris Johnson as prime minister and what he means for Britain's future had turned them into independence supporters.”

The march was dominated by Scottish Saltire flags.

There were also Catalan flags. And some independence supporters carried placards saying, “Break up the British state,” “No to Trident, fund climate jobs now,” and, “Kick the Tories out”.

The most popular chants were, “Say hey, say ho, Boris

Johnson's got to go,” and, “We want independence now”.

Speakers at the final rally included a member of Extinction Rebellion (XR), who encouraged independence supporters to get involved in their campaign.

XR is organising a Rebel Rising festival in Aberdeen on 1 September, and climate change activists are pushing for action in workplaces on 20 September.

Hector Sierra told the rally, “The key test for the new independence campaign



will be whether an independent Scotland is going to get rid of Trident and nuclear weapons, stop investing in fossil fuels and create climate jobs, and to be a place that welcomes migrants and refugees.”

### Cheered

Anti-racists were cheered by news that a Brexit Party rally set to take place in Dundee has been scrapped (see page 2).

The Aberdeen march was part of a series of protests planned in the next few months. There will be one in Perth on 7 September and the series will culminate in Edinburgh on 5 October.

The independence movement is gaining momentum again. Earlier this month an opinion poll suggested a majority of people in Scotland were now in favour of independence.

When those who said they did not know, or said they would not vote, were removed, support for independence was at 52 percent and 48 percent were against.

First minister Nicola Sturgeon described the poll as “phenomenal”.

But the SNP has shown no sign of the radical moves needed to win independence.

## British Steel job fears

**JOBS COULD be at risk at British Steel after it is set to be bought by Oyak, the Turkish military pension fund.**

Oyak's investment vehicle, Ataer Holdings, was chosen as preferred bidder last week and quickly complained about “very low” productivity.

The Financial Times newspaper claimed its productivity drive could “lead to several hundred job losses”. More than 3,000 workers are employed by British Steel in Lincolnshire, where 20,000 jobs are linked to the

industry. British Steel's former owner, private equity firm Greybull Capital, let it slide into insolvency in May.

Unite union assistant general secretary Steve Turner said Unite would be “watching closely and speaking with our Turkish sister unions”.

He referred to Turkey's “record of repression alongside reported opposition to trade union organisation in its steel plants”.

But unions have failed to organise to defend workers' jobs at British Steel.



**Got a story?**

Email ideas to [reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)



# Bullying at Asda adds to anger over new contract

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

**ASDA WORKERS** are furious at supermarket bosses' plans to impose a punitive contract that would rip up their terms and conditions.

The Contract 6 option would introduce unpaid breaks and force people to work on Sundays and bank holidays.

Bosses claim that "the overwhelming majority of our colleagues have signed onto the new contracts" because it increases take home pay.

But one GMB union rep from Tyneside in the North East of England told Socialist Worker that bosses have pressured workers to sign up.

And documents seen by Socialist Worker show that bosses have threatened workers with the sack if they don't agree to the new contract by 2 November.

The rep said, "When it started off as a voluntary contract only 13 percent signed up to it. Many were section leaders or part of the leadership scheme on the path to becoming a manager."

"A lot more people signed when Asda brought in the 'sign or dismiss' options."

The rep, who said he has been given 13 weeks to sign the contract, described the tactics bosses have used.

"At first management had one-on-one meetings where they would try to sell it to you," he explained.

"They would try to put pressure on as well, saying the quicker you sign the better hours we can give you. There have been occasions of managers knocking on doors when people are ill to get them to sign."

## Refused

One letter, sent to another worker after a meeting with management, shows workers were put on a notice period if they refused to sign. It says, "You have confirmed you are not willing to move to the new terms and conditions of employment voluntarily."

"I confirm that I was issuing 12 weeks' notice to terminate your employment on your existing terms and conditions from 11 August 2019."

The letter included another copy of Contract 6, threatening sacking if the worker didn't sign in the 12 week notice period. It threatens, "If you choose not to accept the new contract, your employment will end on 2 November 2019."

"Finally, I informed you that you do not have the right to appeal against my decision."

This sort of treatment by bosses has fuelled workers' anger.

Up to 1,000 workers and



UP TO 1,000 Asda workers and their supporters marched in Leeds last week against an attack on their conditions. Local Labour MP Richard Burgon (above) joined the march

MAIN PICTURE: @GMB\_UNION/TWITTER

## A Matalan walkout in Merseyside

HUNDREDS OF Matalan distribution workers in Merseyside struck for higher pay this week.

Over 500 workers, GMB union members, walked out of the high street giant's hub in Knowsley for 24 hours from 2pm on Monday.

They are fighting a "frankly insulting" pay offer of 1.5 percent—a real terms pay cut.

Claire Hargreaves, a GMB union rep, explained that bosses had made the "offer for eight months with no back pay" for the rest of the year.

"It's 22p above the minimum wage," she said. "Our members are struggling."

"They live on the breadline and it's not acceptable."

GMB organiser Stephen Boden said, "This industrial action is a result of Matalan management making a frankly insulting pay offer."

"How can they expect hard working staff to accept a real terms pay cut?"

## Treatment

Anger has been fuelled by management's treatment of workers as well as low pay.

Members of other branches of the GMB, the Labour Party, Momentum and Knowsley trades council brought solidarity to the picket line.

The Knowsley hub is a key part of Matalan's distribution network for internet and high street orders across the North West of England.

The retailer has recently increased the number of workers by 200 in order to meet a growing number of online orders.

Distribution workers have the power to cause disruption across the supply chain and bring bosses to heel.

The GMB said that further 24-hour strikes are planned in the coming weeks, including on Sunday, after last minute talks failed on Monday.

## Strikes could sting bosses

MANY ASDA workers are frustrated with the GMB union leadership for being "too slow" in taking on the supermarket's plans.

The Tyneside rep said, "The GMB have dragged their feet since the beginning."

"When the proposals were rejected, the national committee of Asda reps put very weak counter-proposals to management. They gave Asda 14 days to get back to them."

"I demanded immediately to go back to Asda headquarters. That's when they should have gone for action."

The rep said that fewer workers would have signed up to the contract if "they felt that they had had the support".

"Up until then, the union had been too quiet," he said. "As a result of that many colleagues signed the contract. That's without a doubt."



GMB leader Tim Roache (left)

their supporters marched on the supermarket's headquarters in Leeds on Wednesday of last week.

GMB members came from regions across Britain, including Wales and Scotland. Marchers chanted, "No ifs, no buts, no Asda cuts," and, "Shame on you," as they made their way down Neville Street.

Some 93 percent of GMB members rejected the contract in a recent consultative ballot.

The Tyneside rep said members wanted to strike—and that they would receive solidarity. "I spoke to lorry drivers from Asda distribution depots," he said. "They said that if one person is outside a store, they will not cross the picket line."

The GMB leadership should hold a national ballot for strikes to stop bosses imposing the new contract.

**On other pages...**  
No to Paul Mason's 'popular front' of failures >> Pages 14&15

## FIGURE IT OUT

**1.5** percent—the pay offer rejected by Matalan workers, which is a real terms pay cut

**22** pence—the amount an hour above the minimum wage that the offer would mean for workers

**24** hours—the duration of workers' first strike against the offer on Monday of this week



## Riot police lash out in Zimbabwe

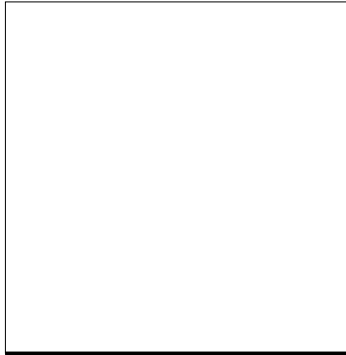
RIOT POLICE in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare, fired tear gas and beat demonstrators during a crackdown on opposition supporters last Friday.

Despite a ban on protests, scores of people gathered in Africa Unity Square to demonstrate against poverty and state repression.

They were also demanding the release from jail of Chief Ndiweni, a known critic of president Emmerson Mnangagwa. Scores were injured and arrested.

Zimbabwe's main opposition group, the Movement for Democratic Change, called off the protests at the last minute after failing to overturn a police ban in court.

But protesters had already



A protester in Harare last Saturday

gathered in the city. Police also banned a march in the city of Bulawayo this week.

About five million Zimbabweans need food aid, according to the United Nations.

Mnangagwa replaced dictator Robert Mugabe in October 2017. But hopes of change have been dashed.

In January, more than a dozen people were killed during a crackdown in Harare against fuel demonstrations.

In the run-up to last week's planned demonstration, rights groups said six political activists were abducted from their homes at night and beaten by armed men.

### FIGURE IT OUT

**72** percent of people in Zimbabwe are living below the poverty line, according to World Bank figures

**90** percent of workers were unemployed in 2017, according to the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions

**98** percent was the official inflation rate in June this year

# Portland—Trump gives boost to far right protest

by GABBY THORPE

**ANTI-FASCISTS IN Portland, Oregon, saw off some 100 far right demonstrators last Saturday.**

The “end domestic terrorism” rally was organised by fascist group the Proud Boys, which is calling for Antifa to be labelled a terrorist organisation.

The demonstrators were driven off by up to 1,000 anti-fascists. After 30 minutes of marching the fascists requested that police escort them from the area.

Rose City Antifa, which organised the counter-demonstration, said it would not allow fascists to bring their “branded violence” to Portland.

The group encouraged people to take to the streets in defence of the city.

As the rally began, US president Donald Trump tweeted saying that “major consideration” was being given to designating Antifa a domestic terrorist organisation.

This has allowed the Proud Boys to declare that their protest was a success, despite being heavily outnumbered.

The Proud Boys have said that they will continue to march in Portland every month until supporters of Antifa are labelled terrorists.

### Publicise

Anti-fascist campaigner and socialist Eric Fretz said that the fascists were using the event to “publicise themselves and demonise anyone who stands up to them”.

“They are getting help in that from president Trump down to the local police,” he said.

Trump isn't the only person to demonise Antifa.

Republican senators Ted Cruz

**THE FAR right protest in Portland was small—but it was given a boost by Donald Trump**

and Bill Cassidy have introduced a congressional resolution to have Antifa reclassified as terrorists.

Fretz said, “It is the far right groups who are committing deadly shootings and other terrorist events in the US.

“To even consider branding Antifa a terrorist organisation is to openly side with fascists against immigrants, people of colour, Jewish worshippers and women who are targets of fascist terror.”

Trump's decision to side with the

fascists is just the latest in a long line of actions taken to fuel division in the US.

As the 2020 elections get closer, he is upping his racist rhetoric, and attacks on migrants' rights, in order to secure right wing votes.

His attacks on Mexican people have led to horrific violence in his name.

Fascists in the US have carried out massacres and murdered left wing protesters since Trump was elected.

But the number of deaths caused by Antifa is zero.

Anti-fascists have proven that an organised movement can smash fascism.

Trump must not be allowed to continue with his racist rhetoric that promotes violence and division.

**On other pages...**  
Mass protests in Hong Kong enter 11th week >>Page 20

### ISRAEL

## Democrats denied entry

ISRAEL BARRED two prominent US politicians from entry last week because of their support for Palestinians.

The Israeli government blocked a visit to Palestine by Palestinian-American Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, which was supposed to begin last Sunday.

It said their sympathy for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign meant they shouldn't be allowed in. BDS targets companies that profit from Israel's occupation of Palestine.

Israel's draconian anti-BDS law denies entry to anyone who

supports the campaign. The state wants to stifle opposition.

US president Donald Trump said the two Democratic Party representatives should be banned because they “hate Israel and all Jewish people”.

Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu complained that their itinerary said they were visiting Palestine, not Israel, and that it included trips to West Bank cities.

They want to deny people the right to see the reality of the occupation, just as Palestinians are denied the right to move freely and refugees the right to return.

### PALESTINE

## Soldiers kill three in Gaza

ISRAELI SOLDIERS killed three Palestinians near the separation fence that traps people inside the Gaza Strip last Saturday.

An Israeli attack helicopter and a tank fired at the three men as they approached the fence. Israel said the three were trying to leave Gaza, and were armed.

Benny Gantz, Israel's “centrist” opposition leader, promised a war on Gaza if he becomes prime minister after elections next month.

Gantz was in charge of Israel's military during its last war on Gaza in 2014. One of his previous election videos boasted that under his command “parts of Gaza were returned to the stone ages”.

Israeli opposition leader Benny Gantz



## Migrants suffering

IT'S WORKING class and poor people who suffer most under the Tory racist immigration laws.

Home secretary Priti Patel said all migrants will have to have a job with a guaranteed salary of over £36,000 a year if they want to come to Britain.

This excludes even many better paid workers.

And the Tories talk of a "skills-based immigration" system would further harm poorer migrants.

Those migrants deemed to be "low skilled" would find it harder to come to Britain. And if they did, they would be denied basic rights, such as access to many health services.

Kristina Fischer  
East London



Just a thought...

## Blame the councils too

I READ your article on the 50,000 children that rely on care from councils deemed inadequate (Socialist Worker, 14 August).

This isn't always down to the Tory government though.

Some local authorities have children's services that are rated inadequate because of poor scrutiny, oversight and accountability of the service.

Management have created an oppressive and bullying culture.

And they have pursued cuts not due to their budgets shrinking but to inflate their CVs.

Neil Terry  
On Facebook

## Socialists, eat your greens!

JASMINE Fischer's letter last week says we should change the system, not what's on our plate, to save the planet (Socialist Worker, 14 August).

But it's something that almost everyone in the developed world can do overnight to have a dramatic impact on their carbon footprint.

Mike Bevan  
On Facebook

## Centrists have a new dream

I SEE the centrists are trying to make a new home for themselves with the proposal for a "national unity government".

Jedd Platts  
On Facebook

## Lexit won't stop Frontex

YOUR ARGUE that Frontex border guards service shows that the European Union (EU) is institutionally racist (Socialist Worker, 14 August).

The documents that have come out do show abuse by Frontex guards and the EU's immigration policy has left refugees to drown in the Mediterranean.

But how will Britain leaving the EU help the refugees?

It won't lead to the end of Frontex. If Britain stays in, we have a better chance to influence EU immigration policy.

Nina Fenwick  
West London

## Race hate in El Paso

DONALD TRUMP inflicted himself on El Paso in the wake of the mass shooting by a far right figure.

When Trump last visited the Texas city six months ago, he whipped up his audience with a racist rant.

He claimed, "In the last two years alone, Ice immigration officers made 226,000 arrests. It includes those charged or convicted of approximately 100,000 assaults, 30,000 sex crimes and 4,000 murders."

The crowd chanted back, "Build that wall!" The figures were fabricated, but Trump's message was clear.

It was an open incitement to hatred, violence and murder against 80 percent of the El Paso population.

John Murphy  
Stockport

# Health workers need to back indefinite strike in Bradford

IT IS good to see that health workers in Bradford have voted for an all-out strike against privatisation from Monday 26 August. (Socialist Worker, 14 August).

The unions at my hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust, fought off a similar plan to transfer workers to a "wholly-owned subsidiary".

While the trust is the only shareholder of the company, workers wouldn't be on the NHS payroll any more.

Our campaign was bold and named what was happening as privatisation, which I think affronted some managers.

But if you're not in the NHS, then it is privatisation.

The campaign was an initiative

by the joint union committee, made up of Unison, Unite and GMB, and involved a lot of people.

The union reps made sure that rank-and-file members were really part of it. Often it's the estates and facilities department—cleaners, porters and other support staff—who are affected.

But if workers from unions and departments that aren't under threat also take part, the more confident people will be able to argue against privatisation plans and for action to stop them.

Management said they would hold off until 2019.

The NHS Improvement regulator issued guidance last summer, advising trusts to pause setting up new wholly-owned subsidiaries.

But the new guidance isn't a legal block.

Until the rules around wholly-owned subsidiaries change at a national level, hospital bosses will look at setting up new ones again.

So news of people taking industrial action is really useful for health workers worried about facing a similar attack.

All the health unions should publicise the all-out strike in Bradford, and donate money to the workers' strike fund.

If you can turn the tide against feeling that attacks are inevitable, it will make us stronger to fight against them.

Gwyneth Powell-Davies

Unite union at Bristol North NHS Trust  
(personal capacity)

## Green politicians often side with the bosses

GREEN MP Caroline Lucas proposed a national unity cabinet that would include MPs who support austerity and fracking.

It is a timely reminder of the class collaborationist politics of Green leaders.

As bitter experience in Ireland and Germany has shown, once in office the Greens have supported privatisation and attacks on working class living standards.

And they have to

supported war and the drive for new fossil fuel extraction.

As socialists, we should work with Green supporters on protests and picket lines.

We should work to persuade them and other workers that only socialist politics provide the alternative to a profit-driven capitalist system that's the primary cause of climate change.

Name and address provided

## Hats off to Williamson supporters

THREE VENUES in Brighton cancelled Chris Williamson MP's talk on what a socialist economy would look like earlier this month.

This was the result of political pressure from the Labour right.

But around 120 people turned out to an outdoor rally in Regency Park. Williamson spoke about his long record of anti-racism,



and the need for an irreversible shift in wealth and power in Britain.

And he told people that we need to build a grassroots movement to support Jeremy Corbyn.

The organisers and

Williamson are to be commended for their courage in persisting in holding the meeting despite the threats and pressure mounted against them.

Christian Hogsbjerg  
Brighton



# FEAR COPS

# NOT CRIME

After Tory scaremongering and promises of a ‘crackdown’ on crime, **Sadie Robinson** looks at the truth behind the fear—and why we don’t need more cops

## IS CRIME GETTING WORSE?

TORY PROMISES for a “crackdown” on crime are based on lies and fearmongering. They want us to believe that violent crime is on the rise, and that it’s unsafe on the streets, so that Boris Johnson can promise 20,000 more cops to make Britain safer.

But what’s really happening? Police figures don’t show a true picture of crime. Lots of crimes aren’t reported—and cops dismiss some as “no crime”.

Forces can change how they record crimes or throw resources into a particular area, skewing the figures. Other statistics are misleading because they don’t show what they appear to measure.

For instance, police recorded an 8 percent rise in offences involving a knife or sharp

instrument in the year to September 2018. But this doesn’t necessarily show an 8 percent rise in knife attacks.

As the Office for National Statistics (ONS) pointed out, “The weapon does not have to have been used in the offence, only present, for it to be flagged.”

The Crime Survey for England and Wales asks people about their experiences and perceptions of crime. This is seen as giving a more reliable picture.

Its latest survey covered the 12 months to December last year. It said 2018 saw “no significant change” in crime levels, following “continued falls in overall levels of crime” in recent decades.

The survey found a rise in theft and in offences involving knives, and a fall in crimes involving firearms. Here again, figures can give a

wrong impression of what’s actually happening. For instance, many would assume that “firearms” means guns. But the survey counts “imitation weapons—CS gas,

pepper spray and stun guns and unidentified weapons” as firearms too.

Similarly, a rise in “gun deaths” doesn’t necessarily mean more people are shooting each other.

In the US nearly 40,000 people died as a result of shooting in 2017 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This was the highest rate in over 20 years, and much media attention was given to a small number of horrific mass shootings.

Yet around 60 percent of gun deaths resulted from people taking their own lives.

These deaths didn’t make headlines. The media makes gun and knife crime appear more widespread than it is. Crimes involving knives and guns remain very rare.

In the 12 months to March 2018, 79 percent of violent incidents in England and Wales involved no weapons, according to the ONS.

## WHAT CAUSES CRIME?

INDIVIDUAL CRIMES have different causes, but all have social roots.

Crime rates are strongly linked to the economy. During the depression of the 1930s, crime rates soared. But during the 1950s, when capitalism was booming, they fell every year.

The crimes of the rich and powerful often go unpunished—even high-profile scandals involving sexual abuse or tax evasion. Many crimes higher up in

society are ignored or not treated as crimes at all.

So when people talk about “crime” they usually mean the crimes of ordinary people. Some see crime as caused by a deviant “underclass”.

But crime isn’t limited to a certain “type” of person—it’s rooted in how society shapes people’s lives.

Poverty, unemployment and alienation cause immense pressures. They can put relationships under strain and cause people to lash out at each other.

When people feel desperate, a small number turn to crime. Crime rates have risen in areas where industries have been devastated. Unemployment and attacks on benefits leave some people with no legal way of getting money.

Capitalism pushes us to constantly buy stuff, and we are encouraged to see our worth in terms of what we possess. Young people worry if they don’t wear the right clothes or have the right trainers. It isn’t surprising that some people commit crimes to get the stuff they are told they need.

The effects of poverty can wreck mental health, and push people towards using alcohol and drugs. These things make people more likely to be victims of crime and create situations where crimes are more likely.

Vulnerable or oppressed people are more likely to be written

off, targeted by the cops and criminalised. Most people in Britain’s prisons were excluded from school.

Over a quarter of the prison population is from a minority ethnic group. And eight out of ten women in prison and seven in ten men said they have mental health issues.

The inequality and brutality of capitalism creates crime and criminals. Poor and working class people are disproportionately the victims.

## WHAT ABOUT VIOLENT CRIME?

DOMINANT explanations for violent crime tend to blame individuals. The absence of a “father figure” or “bad parenting” is said to lead to young people attacking others. Other explanations focus on music or video games.

All push stereotypes about how people live, and then blame these “feckless”

lifestyles for crime. And they usually single out black people.

The worst imply that certain groups are predisposed to violence or criminality. Yet crime and violence occur in all classes and among people of different backgrounds.

Politicians portray violence as a threat to their so-called civilised world. But violence doesn’t exist at the fringes of a peaceful society—it is at the heart of capitalism.

Imperialist powers built empires by fighting bloody wars and then repressing colonised people. States use violence against ordinary people at home too.

Over the past two years, the “War on Terror” saw politicians and the media in Britain step up their glorification of the army and the

soldiers that invaded Iraq and Afghanistan.

It was also an excuse to arm more cops, and give them more powers to spy on ordinary people.

Capitalism has driven people into more and more violent situations.

The system encourages us to compete against each other. Our rulers push racism, sexism and homophobia, encouraging the idea that some people are better than others.

Their rhetoric can give confidence to reactionaries by legitimising their rotten ideas.

All of this shapes individual behaviour.

Capitalism has always been marked by violence and crime—and by panics about it. In 1863 one commentator lamented, “Once more the streets of London are unsafe by day and night.”

Revolutionaries described how capitalism breeds violence from the early days of the system.

The revolutionary Frederick Engels wrote in 1844, “Present day society, which breeds hostility between the individual and everyone else, produces a social war of all against all, which inevitably in individual cases assumes a brutal form—crime.”

## DO WE NEED MORE COPS AND PRISONS?

BETWEEN MARCH 2010 and March last year, police forces in England and Wales lost 21,732 cops, Home Office figures show.

The cuts didn’t lead to a surge in crime. There were “continued falls in overall levels of crime” over the same period.

There is no link between the rate of imprisonment and recorded crime, according to National Audit Office figures. Prison doesn’t “rehabilitate” people either—it leaves people isolated, damaged, excluded and angry.

It’s harder to get work if you have been in jail, and prisoners often come out with nowhere to live. Prison just makes it harder for people to escape crime.

More cops and more prisons do not stop crime because crime is rooted in the system.

Yet it can seem that, even if they aren’t a solution, we still need cops. After all, fewer police means fewer people to investigate terrible crimes such as sexual abuse or racist murders.

This rests on a wrong view of what the cops actually do. Even top cops admit that most of their time is not spent fighting crime.

In 2014 David Crompton, then chief constable of the disgraced South Yorkshire Police, said, “Less than a quarter of what we deal with is crime.”

A 2015 report by the College of Policing found, “Non-crime incidents account for 84 percent of all command and control calls.”

Crompton blamed cuts to other services, claiming that police were doing jobs that should have been done elsewhere.

But the real reason why cops don’t spend time fighting crime is that it isn’t their job. Police are not there to protect ordinary people from crime. They are there to prop up a system that does serious harm to ordinary people.

A lot of what they do is about control and intimidation of ordinary people on the street. Policing the crowds at Notting Hill Carnival, for example, or at a football match or demonstration.

Harassing homeless people, or young people who gather in public—or just simply being visible—is about bolstering the law and order of a system that exploits ordinary people.

The police were formed to clamp down on working class resistance and protect the rich.

They still play this role today. It shapes how they operate and their ideas. So, working class people are regularly treated as dangerous or worthless. Numerous child sexual exploitation scandals have shown that police treated victims as the criminals. Police routinely harass young black men on the streets.

Ever more police powers give the state more weapons to use against ordinary people.

## WHAT’S THE REAL SOLUTION?

MORE REPRESSIVE measures are likely to generate more frustration and anger, and more crime. But other measures could make crimes less likely.

Some groups are more likely to be victims of crime than others. The state could direct resources into more support for these groups to make them less vulnerable.

For instance, it could take serious measures to tackle homelessness. It could fund support services for people with addictions and mental health problems. It could stop treating women who work as prostitutes as criminals, making it easier for them to report crimes.

It could stop cutting staff in public places such as London Underground and parks, which has led to rises in crimes.

Above all it could stop sacking people and cutting benefits, give everyone a decent home, end school exclusions, and raise wages.

But under capitalism the priority is not providing for the majority and meeting the needs of everyone. It’s helping a tiny minority make profits, by whatever means necessary.

Our rulers who condemn violence are hypocrites. For them certain violence—such as police repression—is acceptable, at least in certain circumstances. But “violence” that poses a threat to their system is not.

And crimes committed by some people—the rich, the bosses, the cops—are treated differently to those carried out by ordinary people.

A socialist society wouldn’t end disagreements, illness or unhappiness. But it would take away the material roots of many crimes while giving ordinary people more fulfilling lives.

We can’t stop crime under capitalism. It glorifies violence and division, while making ordinary people’s lives a misery. Ultimately, tackling violence and crime means getting rid of a violent, criminal system that keeps the majority of people down.



PECKHAM PRIDE—a protest about immigration raids and deportations in 2017 faced heavy policing

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN



Johnson on the rampage



BIRD BRAINED—the Home Office’s knife crime campaign



Protecting the rich is what the police are really about



## WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

### INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

### THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

### { SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

#### **Barnsley** Women and the far right

Thu 29 Aug, 7pm,  
Room 302, The Civic,  
Hanson St,  
S70 2HZ

#### **BIRMINGHAM**

#### 60 years since the revolution—where is Cuba going?

Wed 28 Aug, 7pm,  
The Church at Carrs Lane,  
Carrs Ln, B4 7SX

#### **BRIGHTON & HOVE**

#### China and the impact of the Hong Kong resistance

Thu 5 Sep, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Ship St,  
BN1 1AF

#### **BURNLEY AND PENDLE**

#### Know your enemy—alt-right, the far right and fascists

Wed 28 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Red Triangle Cafe,  
160 St James's St, BB11 1NR

#### **CARDIFF**

#### Too many people? Climate change and the myth of overpopulation

Wed 28 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Cathays Community Centre,  
Cathays Terrace, CF24 4HX

#### **CHESTERFIELD**

#### Corbyn's economics in an unstable world

Thu 29 Aug, 7pm,  
Chesterfield Library,  
New Beetwell St, S40 1QN

#### **COLCHESTER**

#### Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Thu 29 Aug, 8pm,  
Oyster Room, Hythe  
Community Centre,  
1 Ventura Drive, CO1 2FG

#### **COVENTRY**

#### Climate change and science fiction

Wed 28 Aug, 7.30pm,  
The Golden Cross,  
8 Hay Ln, CV1 5RF

#### **DERBY**

#### The Peterloo Massacre—the fight for democracy and freedom

Thu 29 Aug, 7pm,  
West End Community Centre,  
Mackworth Rd, DE22 3BL

#### **DUNDEE**

#### Why the working class is the most revolutionary class

Wed 28 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Dundee Voluntary Action,  
10 Constitution Rd, DD1 1LL

#### **GLASGOW**

#### The Portuguese Revolution 45 years on—lessons for today

Thu 29 Aug, 7pm,  
Avant Garde,  
33-44 King St,  
Merchant City, G1 5QT



PROTESTERS IN London this month

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

# Stop Modi's repression... How can Kashmir be free?

#### **BOLTON**

Wed 28 Aug, 7pm,  
Bolton Socialist Club,  
16 Wood St (off  
Bradshawgate),  
BL1 1DY

#### **BRISTOL**

Thu 29 Aug, 7.30pm,  
YHA,  
14 Narrow Quay  
BS1 4QA

#### **EDINBURGH**

Wed 28 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
7 Victoria St,  
EH1 2JL

#### **HUDDERSFIELD**

Wed 28 Aug, 6.30pm,  
Brian Jackson House,  
2 New North Parade,  
Huddersfield  
HD1 5JP

#### **KENT**

Thu 29 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Nucleus Arts Centre  
272 High St,  
Chatham,  
ME4 4BP

#### **LONDON: HACKNEY**

Thu 29 Aug, 7.30pm,  
The Round Chapel,  
2 Powerscroft Rd  
E5 0PU

#### **LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS**

Wed 28 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Weavers Community Forum,  
10 Shackellwell St,  
E2 7EG

#### **SHEFFIELD**

Thu 29 Aug, 7pm,  
Sharrow Community Forum,  
Old Junior School,  
SView Rd, S7 1DB

#### **WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL**

Wed 28 Aug, 7.15pm,  
Light House,  
Suite 16, Chubb Bldg,  
Fryer St,  
WV1 1HT

#### **LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE**

#### Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Thu 29 Aug, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Meeting House Lane,  
LA1 1TX

#### **LEEDS: CITY CENTRE**

#### Class struggle in ancient Egypt

Thu 29 Aug, 7pm,  
The Swarthmore  
Education Centre,  
2-7 Woodhouse Square,  
LS3 1AD

#### **LONDON: HARINGEY**

#### Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Wed 28 Aug, 7.30pm,  
St John Vianney Church Hall,  
386 West Green Rd,  
N15 3QH

#### **LONDON: KINGSTON**

#### China and the impact of the Hong Kong resistance

Thu 29 Aug, 6.30pm,  
Kingston Quaker Centre,  
Fairfield East,  
KT1 2PT

#### **LONDON: NEWHAM**

#### Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Wed 28 Aug, 7pm,  
Stratford Advice Arcade,  
107-109 The Grove  
(next to Morrisons car park),  
E15 1HP

#### **LONDON: SOUTH**

#### Automation—are robots taking all of our jobs?

Wed 28 Aug, 7pm,  
Vida Walsh Centre,  
2b Saltoun Rd,  
Brixton,  
SW2 1EP

#### **LONDON: SOUTH EAST** Brexit, borders and the case for a united Ireland

Wed 28 Aug, 7pm,  
Deptford Lounge,  
9 Giffin St,  
SE8 4RH

#### **LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST**

#### Why we need a revolutionary party

Wed 28 Aug, 7.30pm,  
William Morris  
Community Centre,  
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,  
Walthamstow,  
E17 6QQ

#### **LONDON: WEST & NORTH WEST**

#### Who decides the limits of free speech?

Thu 29 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Woodlane Community Centre,  
78 White City Cl,  
Shepherd's Bush,  
W12 7DZ

#### **MANCHESTER: CENTRAL** Racism and resistance—the fight against Trump

Wed 28 Aug, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

#### **NEWCASTLE**

#### Erdogan, Turkey and the fight for Kurdish liberation

Wed 28 Aug, 7pm,  
Floor 2, Commercial Union  
House, 39 Pilgrim St, NE1 6QE

#### **NORWICH**

#### Engels—the origins of the family

Wed 28 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Vauxhall Centre,  
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

#### **OXFORD**

#### Climate change and the myth of overpopulation

Thu 12 Sep, 7pm,  
Restore Building,  
Manzil Way, OX4 1YH

#### **PORTSMOUTH** Can we build a sustainable, socialist society?

Wed 28 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Somerstown Community  
Centre, River's St,  
PO5 4EZ

#### **SCARBOROUGH**

#### Racism and resistance—the fight against Trump

Wed 28 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Tap and Spile,  
94 Falsgrave Rd,  
YO12 5AZ

#### **SWANSEA**

#### China and the impact of the Hong Kong resistance

Thu 29 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Brynmill Community Centre,  
St Albans Rd,  
SA2 0BP

### { MOVEMENT EVENTS }

#### **DORCHESTER**

#### Going beyond the binary—Marxism, gender and trans politics

Sat 7 Sep, 1.30pm,  
Colliton Club,  
Colliton Park,  
DT1 1XJ  
Organised by Dorset Socialists

#### **GLASGOW**

#### Marxism in Scotland 2019: Ideas to Change the World

Sat 9 Nov, 10am,  
Renfield St Stephens Centre,  
260 Bath St,  
G2 4JP

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# Quentin Tarantino's love-in with a racist, sexist 1960s

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood is crammed with tributes to a bygone era of film—but director Tarantino is stuck behind the times, writes **Gabby Thorpe**

**ONCE UPON** a Time in Hollywood is Quentin Tarantino's "love letter to the 60s", a time which he says impacted him more than any other.

It tells the story of a washed up actor (Leonardo DiCaprio) who lives next door to Sharon Tate in 1969, and his stuntman-cum-chauffeur (Brad Pitt).

Many truly believe that Tarantino is the greatest filmmaker of all time. But this film brings up the question, is he finally behind the times?

The answer, sadly, is yes.

The film feels longer than it is in a lot of places. It's a plotless meander through Los Angeles, with scenes that go absolutely nowhere and don't say a whole lot.

It is crammed with pop culture references that are rewarding for anyone who is as obsessed with the 60s as Tarantino is. For anyone else though, there is a risk that you are going to get completely lost.

The 60s, as portrayed here, doesn't seem all that great. The characters are as misogynistic and mildly racist as one can expect from a Tarantino film.

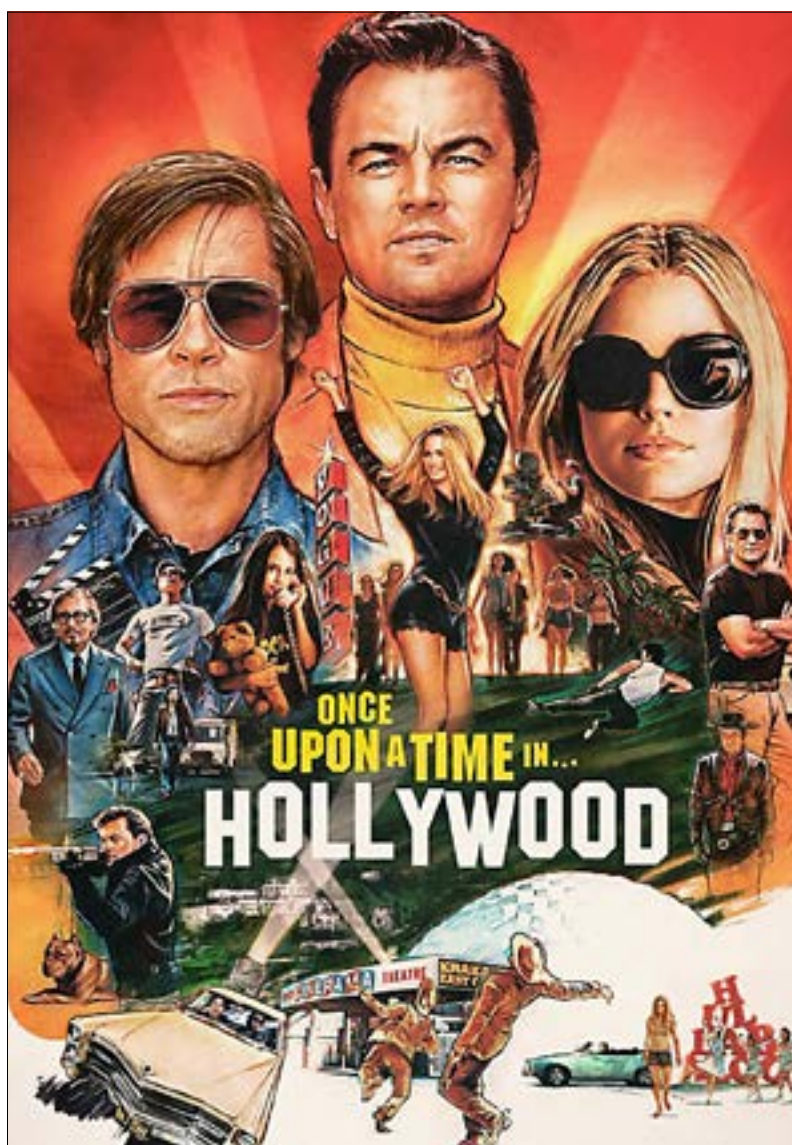
## Inaccuracies

Controversy surrounding the depiction of Bruce Lee as arrogant and unlikable is completely justified.

Some argue that because Once Upon A Time is fiction, audiences should allow Tarantino artistic licence.

But besides obvious historical inaccuracies, the treatment of the only minority character in this film is insulting.

This isn't the only cause of discomfort. Tarantino responded to the Harvey Weinstein scandal by suggesting that he was mildly aware



HAS TARANTINO replicated the worst attitudes of 1960s cinema?

of what was going on but chose not to act. This makes his representation of Sharon Tate all the more disconcerting.

Margot Robbie's acting is completely wasted on a slightly vacuous and two dimensional character.

Then there is a cringe-worthy flirtation between Brad Pitt and an incredibly young member of Charles Manson's family.

It's not all awful though. DiCaprio's portrayal of a floundering has-been leads to some amusing interactions.

## Outlandish

An outlandish, if slightly predictable, ending makes up for a lot. And the soundtrack lives up to Tarantino's reputation.

Tarantino has always said he will make ten films. By his count, he has one more to go.

It feels an awful lot like he really could have stopped at eight. Once Upon A Time is his passion piece, but it all feels very unnecessary.

What he is saying with this film is that the best of the 60s consisted of white men and stereotypically ditzy women.

Who knows what the film could have been if he was passionate about something real and interesting.

If, like Tarantino, you consider the 1960s to be the "golden age of film", then you might find a lot to like in this film. But if you're looking for plot and Pulp Fiction-style action then you could save yourself a lot of time by just watching the last half an hour.

Or better yet, just watch one of his nineties films. It will be a lot more rewarding.

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood is in cinemas now

## A scenic setting for drama about families in turmoil

## TELEVISION

### DEEP WATER

ITV, Wednesdays at 9pm, or online at [itv.com/itvplayer](http://itv.com/itvplayer)

DEEP WATER is ITV's new set piece thriller about three complex women characters, set in the scenic landscape of the Lake District.

Each one is a mother. Each one is desperately trying to keep together families in crisis.

The first episode brilliantly sets up a complex web of family ties, friendships, lies

and secrets, which the audience waits to see unravel.

It also deals with the double burden put on working class women.

Roz, played by Sinead Keenan, is a physiotherapist whose family is facing the threat of eviction.

Anna Friel's character Lisa works multiple jobs while also running the home.

But there's a class divide here too. Lisa is invited to a dinner party at the house of Kate—played by Rosalind Eleazar—



Anna Friel, in a drama based on the pressures of family life

and is intimidated by its opulence. Yet the thread of family life in turmoil runs throughout, tying each of these women together.

Yet none consider that they might not want to be with them anymore.

This is a drama that deals with the complications and stresses of family life—as a place that's a source of comfort, but also something that can stifle women.

Whatever twists and turns Deep Water takes, its strength is that it shows family life at its rawest.

**Sophie Squire**

## ART

### PAULA REGO: OBEDIENCE AND DEFIANCE

MK Gallery, Milton Keynes  
Tickets from £8.50

Book online at [mkgallery.org](http://mkgallery.org)

SHOWING WORKS spanning her entire career since the 1960s, this is the first major retrospective of Rego's work in England for over 20 years.

The exhibition includes previously unseen paintings and works on paper from the artist's family and close friends. They reflect Rego's perspective as someone immersed in urgent social issues and current affairs.

The selection of works focuses on moral challenges to humanity, particularly in the face of violence, gender



Angel, by Paula Rego

discrimination and political tyranny.

There are paintings and etchings related to children sold into slavery in North Africa, abortion and female genital mutilation.

Many of the images begin with the artist's Portuguese roots and childhood experiences or respond to current affairs.

## ART

### ROMANTIC SCOTLAND

Duff House, Aberdeenshire

Until 29 September

Tickets from £7.20

Go to [historicensevironment.scot](http://historicensevironment.scot)

ROMANTIC Scotland brings together treasures from the National Gallery of Scotland's and Historic Environment Scotland's collections.

It contrasts the romantic depictions of Scotland's changing landscapes, created by artists and writers in the 19th century, with the reality of ordinary life.

The exhibition includes works by renowned painters Sir John Lavery, Patrick Nasmyth, and Sir James Guthrie, whose dramatic landscapes continue to shape perceptions of Scotland.

And it includes stunning early photography and historic objects that reframe these works in their historical contexts.



**“RULE nothing out,” Paul Mason tells Labour Party activists, as he advises them to form a pact with the Lib Dems and the Greens to stop a no-deal Brexit.**

This, the former left wing journalist wrote recently in the Guardian newspaper, is the only way to stop the Tories and the far right.

Mason believes that the biggest divide in British politics today is between the reactionaries who support Brexit, and the supposedly progressive liberals who oppose it.

It's no longer possible, he says, for Labour to win a general election purely by challenging austerity.

And the cost of losing one would be a country “ruled by a faction of elite Tories who have abandoned their moral and intellectual dividing lines with the far right.”

So Mason has looked back into history to find a solution—and come up with the “Popular Front”.

This tactic, adopted by Communist Parties in the mid-to-late 1930s, led them into electoral alliances with liberals and social democrats.

It always ended badly for the left.

Yet Mason touts the Popular Front as the “one proven response in history that beats an alliance of far right populists and conservative amorlists”.

It resulted in a Spanish government that took power against the fascists he says, and gave France its “first Socialist prime minister”. As a former Trotskyist, he surely knows this is only half the story at best.

### Outlawed

In France the Popular Front led the Communist Party to shut down a revolutionary wave of strikes—only for the party to be outlawed by the government it protected.

In Spain it ended with Communists butchering a revolution that could have stopped the fascists.

But Mason isn't even entirely honest about who came up with the Popular Front, or why.

Mason claims the Popular Front was “invented by the Corbynistas of their day.”

In the same article he hails Bulgarian Communist leader Georgi Dimitrov as a champion of the Popular Front.

He doesn't mention that Dimitrov was also a shill for Russian dictator Joseph Stalin.

This omission is hardly surprising given that Mason has taken to denouncing as “Stalinist” anyone on the left who supports Brexit.

But this background to the Popular Front is quite important.

It tells us what the Popular Front was actually about—what it was supposed to do, who it was supposed to benefit,



PAUL MASON

# ‘POPULAR FRONT’ OF FAILURES

Journalist Paul Mason has called on Labour to support a ‘Popular Front’ to stop the far right. It proved a disaster in the 1930s—and he should know it, writes Nick Clark



Jeremy Corbyn

and why it betrayed ordinary people.

From the late 1920s, Communist Parties—controlled by Stalin through the Third International or Comintern—had been sectarian towards social democratic parties. They refused to unite in action with them against the fascists.

That changed dramatically after 1935, as Stalin looked for allies among the rulers of other capitalist countries against the threat of Nazi Germany.

“

**Would Mason sacrifice Corbyn for the sake of the Popular Front?**

Suddenly Communists were supposed to unite with the leaders of mainstream capitalist parties “interested in the preservation of peace”.

In France, workers in the Communist and Socialist Parties had already begun to unite.

Fascists had forced out the prime minister—a member of the liberal Radical Party—in 1934 after staging a bloody riot.

But the advance of the fascists was halted when members of the Socialist and Communist

Parties—and their union federations—united against them.

Leaders of the Socialist and Communist-controlled unions each announced general strikes and demonstrations, to take place separately on the same day. On the day, the demonstrations merged.

It was exactly the type of united, working class action that defeats the right.

But the French Communist leaders, in line with Stalin's new policy, joined an electoral alliance not just with the Socialist Party, but the capitalist Radicals.

This Popular Front won elections in 1936. Socialist Leon Blum became prime minister and Communist and Socialist party membership grew.

But when a capitalist crisis hit, bosses reacted with attacks on workers' jobs and wages.

A massive wave of strikes and occupations exploded, and began to raise questions of fundamental change.

The Communist Party put an end to it. Its attitude was to defend the Popular Front now, and save revolution for later. It told its supporters, “Everything is not possible,” and, “It is necessary to know when to end a strike.”

**T**HE STRIKE wave was ended. In its wake, workers became demoralised with the government. The government shifted right.

Socialists and Communists lost support, the right in the Radical Party took over—and the Communist Party was banned in 1939.

With the workers' movement demoralised, the Nazis were easily able to subdue France after they invaded in 1940.

It was a similar story in Spain. In 1936 a Popular Front of Communists, Socialists and liberal capitalist Republicans won a general election.

The result gave working class people confidence to fight for more with a wave of strikes and demonstrations. But it also led to a conservative-backed coup led by the fascist general Franco.

Action by workers halted the takeover. They armed themselves, took over army barracks and convinced soldiers to join them. Franco only managed to gain control of less than half of Spain.

In the most militant regions, society was effectively run by workers' organisations, not the republican government.

But Communist members, convinced that the Popular Front was the best defence against Franco, tried to postpone this revolution.

They defended the republican government and tried violently to disarm the workers' militias and organisations.

They undermined the very thing that had stopped the advance of fascism, and Franco took control of Spain in 1939.

What would this tactic mean for the left in Britain today?

For Mason it would begin with conciliation with the Lib Dems, letting them off the hook for enabling austerity and racism as the Tories' coalition partners.

Better instead to partner up with them, only later “allowing voters to measure the Lib Dems' actions against their rhetoric”.

If that's your starting point, where do you go from there?

Mason wants Labour to go into a general election with a policy of “Remain and reform”.

That is, keep Britain inside the European Union (EU), then try and transform it into something progressive.

**B**UT HOW does that fit with the goals of the Lib Dems, Greens and Scottish Nationalists who essentially want to keep the EU the way it is?

Their backing for the EU rests on the fact that its institutions are designed to benefit the bosses of its member states. That's their priority, and they won't drop it.

Labour's priority is slightly different—getting elected.

“Every Labour member should be asking themselves the question—is beating Johnson in a snap election more important than anything else?” says Mason.

If that's the case they should also ask what they might have to give up to get unity with the liberals.

Last week Jeremy Corbyn appealed to the leaders of those parties to support him in a government that's only purpose is to stop no-deal.

Lib Dem leader Jo Swinson said she could only support one if Tory Ken Clarke or Blairite Harriet Harman was in charge.

Would Mason sacrifice Corbyn's leadership—giving in completely to the right—for the sake of a Popular Front? “Rule nothing out.” And that's far from the worst outcome.

A Popular Front would mean propping up those whose decades of rule through austerity and racism fuelled the growth of the far right in the first place.

Labour could end up agreeing to all sorts of right wing measures demanded by the liberals in a Popular Front government.

And it would be the one made to shut down any strikes or protests against it. The thinking



**Paul Mason has praised Bulgarian Communist leader Georgi Dimitrov as a champion of the 'popular front' (top, right)—omitting that he was a shill for Russian dictator Joseph Stalin (top, left). Now he wants a front of Labour, the Lib Dems and Greens (above)**

behind all this is that the left and liberals share a common cause against the right.

Mason presents the Popular Front as a defence against “the threat to democracy, to the welfare state and to our tolerant society.”

But Britain isn't a unified, tolerant society, or much of a democratic one.

It's a society run by people who represent the interests of the richest at the top. They've spend decades attacking the welfare state, and pushing the racism that divides us.

Beating the right, and winning for the left, means struggling against them.

That struggle involves many tactics, and needs unity among working class people.

But we have to rule out a Popular Front.

### READ MORE

● **The Comintern—a history of the Third International** by Duncan Hallas £10.99

● **Revolution and war in Spain in 1936—a battle that could have been won** Socialist Worker [bit.ly/SpanishRevolutionBetrayed](https://bit.ly/SpanishRevolutionBetrayed)

● **Whither France?** by Leon Trotsky [bit.ly/WhitherFrance](https://bit.ly/WhitherFrance)

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**FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT**

## What can we do about climate refugees?

**Gabby Thorpe** looks at the plight of people displaced by climate chaos and argues that we should welcome refugees

NATURAL DISASTERS and a shifting climate will drive around 143 million people from their homes in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America by 2050.

The people from these displaced communities aren't jettisoned around the world or opening massive factories.

But they are the first to suffer the effects of the planet-destroying capitalist system.

Despite these unsettling figures—from the World Bank no less—the United Nations (UN) insists that these displaced populations are not refugees.

A refugee is defined by international law as someone who is fleeing war or persecution based on race, religion or ethnicity.

This definition is meant to give certain legal rights.

By refusing to change the classification, the UN is effectively stripping climate refugees of their right to a safe home.

One of the UN's arguments is that a lot of those who have been displaced are travelling across their own countries and not passing through borders.

### Arbitrary

This is an arbitrary distinction. If people are forced to leave their homes due to climate change, they're refugees regardless of whether they've had to cross a national border.

But in any case the number of people fleeing is only set to rise.

We're faced with a very near future of masses of people being forced to travel great distances—only to be thrown back by increasingly militarised borders.

Perhaps when people from wealthier countries start fleeing natural disasters in larger numbers, the UN's position will change. By then it will be too little, too late. In 2018, wildfires



**FIGHTING FOR change in the Pacific (above) and Britain**



in the US caused a spate of internal refugees.

Already, climate change is displacing those in one of the wealthiest countries in the world. The Guardian newspaper has even gone as far as publishing an article titled, “Where should you move to save yourself from climate change?”

Yet the ruling classes don't want to talk about climate refugees in any meaningful way.

Accepting the fact that whole communities may have to move also means moving large chunks of capital—

“

**Rising sea levels could displace 30 million people by the end of the century**

and that's inconvenient for governments and bosses.

Ignoring the issue might suit the governments of the world. But they don't even ensure that new homes being built are safe, or that people forced to move can do so in a managed way.

In another article, the Guardian reported that rising sea levels could displace 30 million people by the end of the century.

Meanwhile Donald Trump continues to claim that dealing with climate change would be bad for the US economy.

### Science

And Boris Johnson has rejected climate science more than once despite promising to lobby Trump to do more about climate change. It has become increasingly clear that action regarding climate change comes from below.

Capitalism doesn't care about the planet.

Re-defining the term refugee could give those forced by climate change to move better legal protection and assistance.

In order to give refugees the best chance, we need to say that all migrants are welcome.

We have to fight against the border controls that lock them out, and demand support for communities forced to move if they want it.

These issues require urgent action. Climate refugees are being created right now.

And a refusal to recognise this problem is a death sentence for us all.



# Portugal sends troops to break fuel strike

by CHARLIE KIMBER

**THE Portuguese government—which some hail as a model of left wing success—sent soldiers to drive fuel tankers to break an indefinite strike last week.**

The government also issued an emergency “civil requisition” decree.

It meant strikers could be prosecuted and face up to two years in jail.

Striking tanker drivers are pushing their bosses for a pay rise and better working conditions.

They say outstanding issues were not resolved after they struck in April.

About a quarter of Portugal’s filling stations were either completely out of fuel or were partially dry by last Saturday.

## Negotiate

But the next day drivers voted to call off the strike, with their union agreeing to negotiate with employers in government-brokered talks that were due to begin on Tuesday.

The Socialist Party (PS) government of Antonio Costa claimed the drivers’ strike was being manipulated in the run-up to a general election scheduled for 6 October.

It’s true that one of the drivers’ union leaders is a

leading candidate in Lisbon for a liberal party.

But anger at the government goes much wider than a section of the right.

The PS came to office as a minority government in 2015, promising to reverse

austerity. It rested on support from the Left Bloc, the Communist Party and the Green Party in key votes.

It made improvements in pensions and the minimum wage, and positive changes to abortion laws.

But in general it has maintained a tight hold on public spending, implemented privatisation and curbed wages.

This sparked a series of public sector strikes involving groups such as teachers, nurses, firefighters, postal

workers, dockers, oil refinery workers, court officials and judges.

There have also been several walkouts in the private sector. New unions, such as the one now leading the drivers’ strike, have called some of the strikes.

## Unions

Over 20 unions have been formed in the last four years. Just three have signed up to the confederations headed by the Socialist Party or the Communist Party.

Catarina Martins is the national coordinator of the Left Bloc, a radical left party.

She said, “Decreeing the civil requisition at the request of employers is a mistake and is a limitation of the right to strike.”

She added that there are “absolutely wild working hours” in the freight transport sector and “a widespread evasion of social security contributions” by bosses.

The use of troops and police against strikers underlines how limited Costa’s changes are—and the need for independent socialist organisation.

**FUEL TANKER strikers picketing at a depot in Aveiras, outside Lisbon, last week**

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# Bolsonaro attacks Amazon to boost business interests

The deforestation unleashed by Brazil's far right president is a big threat to the environment. But, **Gabby Thorpe** argues, we can't trust those world leaders who have attacked him either

**BRAZIL'S FAR** right president Jair Bolsonaro is waging war on the Amazon rainforest. His victory in elections last year, after attacking minorities and oppressed groups, marked a dangerous shift.

Bolsonaro is a threat to poor people—and the planet.

He wants to open up protected indigenous reserves in the Amazon to mining, farming and logging—and give firms free rein to make money.

"The Amazon is ours," Bolsonaro declared last month.

Preliminary findings from the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) show that a staggering 2,254 square kilometres of rainforest was cleared in July.

INPE director Ricardo Galvao was sacked after Bolsonaro said its figures "do not relate to the reality".

Galvao told the Guardian newspaper that deforestation is "a question of brutal, fast economic exploitation".

He said Bolsonaro's administration believes "that by exploiting the Amazon they will achieve much faster economic development of the region".

The Amazon provides a fifth of the world's oxygen and is the largest natural carbon storage system after the ocean.



SATELLITE IMAGES showing deforestation in the Amazon rainforest

## Dieback

The loss of a fifth more of the basin is expected to take place within a generation. This could lead to dieback—the drying out and consequent burning of the remaining plant life.

The Amazon helps to prevent warming of the planet, and any deforestation leads to the immediate release of greenhouse gases.

It is also one of the biggest resources of minerals in the world,

and deforested land has given way to illegal mines and crop land.

The outcry over deforestation has caused some tensions. German chancellor Angela Merkel has removed German aid for Amazon protection projects if Brazil does not remain committed to preserving the rainforest.

Yet Merkel is no friend of the environment. All states put the businesses they represent before

tackling climate change. And capital is linked across borders—including the German capital Merkel represents. Volkswagen manufactures a majority of the cars produced in Brazil.

Bolsonaro has also faced resistance from below. Activists from Greenpeace and Extinction Rebellion (XR) are among those protesting to demand an end to deforestation.

Four XR activists were arrested last week for throwing red paint at

the Brazilian embassy in London. Coordinated demonstrations targeted Brazilian embassies in Chile, Portugal, France, Switzerland and Spain.

They were timed to take place in solidarity with indigenous women marching in Brazil (see below).

One XR protester said, "If we close our eyes to the criminal destruction taking place, our children will pay the price."



## Top job for cop reject

**BOLSONARO** wants to overhaul Brazil's National Indian Foundation (FUNAI).

FUNAI is traditionally responsible for protecting rights.

BBC Brazil revealed that FUNAI's new president—appointed by Bolsonaro—had been rejected from the federal police force.

Marcelo Augusto da Silva (pictured) was considered too aggressive and impulsive for the job.

He took office last month.



## No cuts in education

**IN MAY**, Bolsonaro imposed 30 percent funding cuts to all Brazil's state-owned universities.

Scholarships for masters and doctorates have been scrapped.

In July, further cuts hit teaching materials. Education unions called for strikes on Tuesday of last week.

Thousands of students and teachers took to the streets.

# Protests fuse action on climate with wider demands

**THE NUMBER** of environmental activists who have been murdered doubled between 2001 and 2017, according to a Global Witness report published this month.

The NGO also said there is a larger trend that particularly threatens indigenous people in Brazil.

Co-author of the report Frances Lambrick said, "Bolsonaro has taken power with the promise that indigenous people must adapt to the majority or disappear.

"He is putting exploitation of the environment first."

Gold miners walked into a protected reserve in Amapa, a region in the north of Brazil, last month and stabbed Emrya Wajapi to death.

He was the leader of the indigenous Wajapi community.

The murder is a result of Bolsonaro's racism, and it will not be the last.

Indigenous activists have resisted Bolsonaro's racist policies and women have led the movement.

Some 300 indigenous



Women protested against Bolsonaro in Brasilia last week

women protested on Monday of last week. They carried banners reading, "Resist to exist" and marched towards congress in Brazil's capital, Brasilia.

Last Wednesday, they joined 20,000 women for a demonstration dubbed the "March of the Magridas".

The demonstrations also targeted the declining standard of healthcare, education cuts and Bolsonaro's misogyny and homophobia.

The protests show how the issue of deforestation can be taken up alongside wider demands.



## IN BRIEF

**Ryanair bosses try to ground strikes**

RYANAIR RUSHED to the courts in an effort to stop pilots striking on Thursday.

The workers are members of the British Airline Pilots Association.

In a ballot they voted 80 percent for strikes on a 72 percent turnout.

Ryanair tried to get an injunction to halt the strike.

The verdict had not been announced as Socialist Worker went to press.

**Strikes could hit supply of fuel**

TANKER DRIVERS in Ellesmere Port, Merseyside, could strike over pay.

The action by Unite union members employed by Hoyer Petrolog UK Limited might mean petrol shortages and flight delays

The workers deliver to Euro garages and Exxon Esso forecourts.

The company also delivers aviation fuel to Leeds Bradford airport on behalf of Essar and Liverpool John Lennon airport on behalf of World Fuels Services.

The dispute would also impact the operations of BP, Shell and Essar at the Stanlow refinery.

Hoyer employs tanker drivers on different terms and conditions, and different rates of pay.

**Drinks workers vote for strikes**

WORKERS AT drinks firm Diageo's plants have voted overwhelmingly for strikes.

Around 95 percent of Unite union members have voted to reject a "derisory" pay offer and are likely to stage walkouts in September.

The dispute affects staff at Diageo's Leven distillery and its bottling plant at Cameron Bridge.

Workers at the company's Shieldhall plant in Glasgow are also affected.

**Workers don't want to take a hit in pay**

WORKERS AT the Addaction alcohol and drug rehabilitation service in Wigan planned to strike for equal pay on Friday.

The 31 Unison union members, who were outsourced from the health service, are angry that charity bosses at Addaction have failed to keep NHS pay rates.

**All you need are airport strikes**

WORKERS AT Liverpool John Lennon Airport were set to strike on Thursday and Saturday of this week, and on Thursday of next week.

The GMB union members on the Swissport EasyJet and Swissport Mainline contracts are angry over health and safety issues.

## HOUSING



**HUNDREDS OF people joined the Silent Walk for Grenfell in west London last Wednesday. The monthly march demands justice for the dead and survivors of the blaze that ripped through the Grenfell Tower housing block in North Kensington in 2017**

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS

# Support the cleaners' all-out strike for pay

by NICK CLARK

STRIKING CLEANERS and caterers at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Beis) have entered the fifth week of an indefinite strike over low pay and outsourcing.

The members of the PCS union at the Beis headquarters in central London are demanding the London Living Wage of £10.55 an hour.

The workers, employed by outsourcers ISS and Aramark, are also demanding to be brought back in house.

Strikers have held lively picket lines outside Beis every week since the strike began.

**Refused**

They have also visited other PCS branches, and joined striking cleaners at HMRC tax offices in Liverpool and Bootle.

But bosses so far appear to have refused to agree even to talks.

As strikers said during their visit to Liverpool last week,



**A joint strike rally in Liverpool last week**

low pay and outsourcing are problems facing workers across Britain.

Their fight should be turned into a high-profile cause that all trade unionists should support.

It could become a focus for the fight against low pay and outsourcing everywhere.

■ IT SUPPORT workers at the Driver and Vehicle Standards

Agency (DVSA) were set to begin a month-long strike from Thursday of this week.

The members of the PCS union are part of a long-running battle over longer working hours, working practices and restructures.

The PCS says the action by IT workers is part of a plan of rolling action in DVSA—and that other groups could soon be called out on strike.

## ROYAL MAIL

## Union reps meet as post strike may be in pipeline

ROYAL MAIL postal workers in the CWU union were set to meet in Liverpool for a national briefing of reps on Thursday of this week.

Bosses are breaking from an agreement struck with the CWU early in 2018, which promised an end to a bullying culture.

It also promised a shorter working week linked to pay rises and "savings" in Royal Mail workplaces.

But the union says bosses are pushing through unagreed changes without consultation. Bosses want

to make Royal Mail more like other private parcel delivery companies.

The changes could lead to job losses, worse working conditions, and a poorer service.

The number of unofficial strikes at Royal Mail workplaces over bullying management has increased in recent weeks.

The CWU has told its reps to prepare to hold mass gate meetings, as it did in 2017 ahead of an overwhelming vote for a national strike.

## ANNIVERSARY



**On the march in Manchester**

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

## March for the martyrs of 1819 Peterloo Massacre

OVER 1,000 people joined a protest in Manchester last Sunday to remember the Peterloo Massacre of 1819.

It linked remembrance of the killing of 18 demonstrators 200 years ago with struggles for justice and democracy today.

Speakers at the rally included trade unionists and suspended Labour MP Chris Williamson.

Protesters raised the ruthlessness of the state when it feels under threat, and also highlighted the battles against

austerity, racism and climate chaos now. There were trade union banners from Dundee, Carlisle, Birmingham, Stafford, and across the North West of England.

The day before protesters—including Extinction Rebellion activists—held an "illegal picnic" at the site of the Peterloo memorial in Manchester.

It had been unveiled the day before. At the precise anniversary of the killings, the names of the dead were read out.

## TRANSPORT ROUND-UP

## Rail workers keep up fights for safety

WORKERS ON East Midlands Trains struck last Saturday in a battle over pay and conditions.

The RMT union members' walkout came as a new private company took over the rail franchise.

The union said its members were "rock solid and united" as they held their fourth day of industrial action.

Stagecoach continued to attack pay and working conditions right up to the point it bailed out of the

franchise at the weekend.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said, "Stagecoach is pulling the plug on its British operations and handed over to Abellio.

"The scorched earth policy on its remaining franchises is clear to see."

■ RMT UNION members on the South Western Railway are set for a further round of strikes over driver only operation.

The union says the company continues to drag

its heels and delays talks over guaranteeing a guard on the train. The RMT blasted "the company's unremitting failure to give assurances that the company won't move to Driver Controlled Operation—with the role of the guard butchered completely".

"The union has been left with no alternative but to call further industrial action," it said.

A strike is set to take place from Friday of next week until Monday 2 September.

## TUBE

TRAIN OPERATORS on the Central and Victoria tube lines were set to strike on Thursday of next week.

The RMT union members' 24-hour walkout is set to begin at 8pm.

The Central Line workers are angry over insufficient staffing levels, chronic understaffing, imposed rosters, pressure from management and other issues.

And on the Victoria Line issues include the work attendance procedure and unlawful deduction of wages.

## OUTSOURCING

THE RMT union launched a campaign to demand justice for cleaners employed by outsourcer Mitie at Network Rail managed stations.

The union said, "The campaign highlights the fact that passengers using Glasgow Central, Edinburgh Waverley, Liverpool Lime Street, Manchester Piccadilly, Leeds City or Birmingham New Street stations, are passing through stations that are cleaned, day and night, by people who are surviving on poverty pay."



## HEALTH WORKERS

# These NHS strikes need your support

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

**HEALTH WORKERS** in Bradford and Lincolnshire are stepping up the fight against poverty pay and outsourcing—and they need solidarity.

Health visitors in Lincolnshire are fighting to make bosses pay them what they are owed.

The Unite union members and their supporters marched through Lincoln town centre last Saturday. They were joined by Labour's shadow health secretary John Ashworth.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn sent support.

They began a 48-hour walkout on Monday—which followed another two-day strike that began on Friday of last week.

The health visitors were transferred from the NHS to the Tory-run local authority under the Tupe process in 2017.

They have not received a pay rise since then—despite both health and local government workers getting modest increases.

## Indefinite

Meanwhile hundreds of Unison union members in Bradford were set to begin an indefinite strike against outsourcing on Monday of next week.

Around 300 cleaners, porters and other support staff at the Bradford Royal Infirmary and St Lukes Hospital



MARCHING IN Lincoln last Saturday

PICTURE: HAJERA BLAGG ON TWITTER

finished a two-week walkout on Wednesday of last week.

They are fighting against bosses' plans to transfer their jobs to a "wholly-owned subsidiary"—Bradford Healthcare Management Facilities Ltd.

Wholly-owned subsidiaries—privately-registered companies owned by the hospital—are one of the latest forms of privatisation facing the NHS.

They allow bosses to undermine workers' wages and terms and conditions, paving the way for full-blown privatisation down the line.

Solidarity has poured in ahead of the all-out strike.

Latest donations to the strike fund have included £500 from Unison South West, £300 from Unison Sussex Partnership and £250 from Unison Yorkshire.

Nick McMaster, Unison Sussex Health Partnership branch secretary, said, "Solidarity to our brothers and sisters in your campaign against transfer to a wholly-owned subsidiary."

"We will always oppose all attempts to hive off staff—we fully support your right to remain NHS employees."

"Your fight is our fight."

● Sign the Lincolnshire health visitors support petition at [bit.ly/PayHealthVisitors](http://bit.ly/PayHealthVisitors)

## Back Bradford—what you can do

- Donate to the strike fund. Make a bank transfer to Unity Trust. Sort code 60-83-01, account number 49021215
- Send cheques payable to "Bradford Health Services Branch" to Unison Office, Field House, Bradford Royal Infirmary, Duckworth Lane, Bradford BD9 6RJ
- You can also donate at [bit.ly/Bradfordstrike](http://bit.ly/Bradfordstrike)
- Send a message of support to strikers via the Unison Bradford Health Branch Facebook page

## LLANELLI RAIL STRIKE MEMORIAL



On the march

PICTURE: RHODA THOMAS

## Remembering 1911 strike

HUNDREDS OF trade unionists, campaigners and local people gathered in Llanelli, South Wales, last Saturday to remember the 1911 rail strike.

It was the first all-British rail strike and saw two workers killed in the town.

Speakers included Mark Serworka, the PCS general secretary, and Steve Hedley from the RMT union.

Other speakers included local and national politicians, and representatives of Stand Up To Racism and Llanelli Pride.

## SCHOOLS

## 'Blue water' action ends

THE NASUWT union has called off strikes over health concerns at Buchanan High and St Ambrose schools in North Lanarkshire.

Teachers have held a series of strikes after four former pupils and current teachers were treated for bladder cancer since 2012. For a period blue coloured water ran from the schools' taps.

Last week the union leaders met with experts who have been advising them.

Afterwards the union said,

"Our experts have advised that they believe that the remedial action taken on the campus enables them to advise that NASUWT members can return to work."

Chris Keates, acting general secretary of the NASUWT, said, "If it hadn't been for the willingness of the NASUWT members to take a strong stand on this issue, many of the actions which have now been taken on the site would never have occurred."

## ARMS TRADE

## Stop arms fair in London

ACTIVISTS ARE organising to disrupt an arms fair at London's Docklands. Actions are set to take place 2-9 September.

Every two years over 1,000 arms companies display their weapons to buyers from around the world at the DSEI arms fair. Customers include authoritarian regimes and countries with serious human rights problems.

The British government helps to organise this arms fair, invites these repressive regimes, and helps arms

companies to make deals, at taxpayers' expense.

Join the week of action at the Excel Centre, London, E16. The themes are:

- Mon 2 Sept, Stop arming Israel
- Tue 3 Sept, No faith in war
- Wed 4 Sept, No nuclear
- Thu 5 Sept, Conference at the gates
- Fri 6 Sept, Climate justice
- Sat 7 Sept, Festival of resistance
- Sun 8 Sept, Borders and migration
- For details go to [stopthearmsfair.org.uk](http://stopthearmsfair.org.uk)

## PHARMACISTS

## Tayside pharmacists dispense solution to pay dispute

PHARMACY support workers at NHS Tayside began an indefinite strike on Monday.

Pickets were out at Dundee's Ninewells Hospital and Perth Royal Infirmary.

The dispute relates to a flawed job evaluation process which the Unite union says has led to a number of grading issues.

This has left some workers being paid at a lower grade than they should be.

Pickets on Monday chanted, "What do we want? Band 3.—When do we want it? Now!"

NHS Tayside has admitted that the job evaluation process was not followed through to its rightful



Picketing in Perth

PICTURE: LORNA ROBERTSON ON TWITTER

conclusion and some workers were not given a right of appeal.

But they have not paid up. In a ballot 100 percent

of pharmacy support workers voted for action on a 90 percent turnout.

Unite has criticised Scottish government health

secretary Jeane Freeman.

The union said that "initial progress" had been made with NHS Tayside.

But negotiations "collapsed" when Freeman directed the health board to end the talks on the "establishment of an independent process."

Susan Robertson, Unite regional industrial officer, said, "Pharmacy support workers in NHS Tayside have been severely let down by the cabinet secretary for health."

A Scottish government spokesperson said that "established procedures" existed for the resolution of "disputes of this nature".



# MILLION MARCH IN HONG KONG

by SADIE ROBINSON

**SOME 1.7 million people marched in Hong Kong on Sunday as the pro-democracy movement there entered its 11th week.**

Protesters occupied roads near Causeway Bay, Hong Kong's main retail area.

Other roads were blocked in Wan Chai, Admiralty, Central, Western District and Tin Hau.

The government complained that the protest "seriously affected traffic and caused much inconvenience".

Demands include the withdrawal of the extradition bill, an independent inquiry into police actions, the release of arrested protesters and genuine democracy.

## **Demands**

Lawmaker Fernando Cheung said, "It is not as if the demands of the people are unclear.

"It is the non-response, or the response with violence and police brutality, that has caused so much disturbance."

The protests began in June



**THE HUGE demo in Hong Kong**

against the extradition bill, which would allow suspects to be sent to mainland China.

They have grown into a movement for more democracy.

Demonstrators have faced

severe repression and violence. One woman had reconstructive surgery on her eye after being hit by a police beanbag round earlier this month.

But police claimed last

weekend that officers have exercised "restraint, tolerance and patience" towards protesters.

Anonymous groups are also targeting protesters. Masked men armed

with metal poles and sticks attacked people in a metro station last month. And several students say they have received threats.

At a student press conference last week, Leung

Siu-yuk from the Baptist University student union said she had received a threatening Facebook message.

It included names and addresses of some of her family members.

"This is an organised threat to silence us," she said. "But I know I have been doing what is right. I will not be silenced."

## **Threatening**

Other students have received threatening messages and visits from groups of unknown men.

The Chinese authorities are also escalating their threats towards protesters.

China's ambassador to Britain, Liu Xiaoming, warned last week that China has "enough power to swiftly quell unrest".

And China's paramilitary People's Armed Police last week practised crowd control tactics at a sports complex in Shenzhen, a city near from Hong Kong.

## **On other pages...**

Portuguese government sends troops to break strike >>> **Page 16**

## **Supporters of protests demonstrate in London**

UP TO 1,000 people marched in central London last Saturday in solidarity with the movement in Hong Kong.

They chanted, "Reclaim Hong Kong," and, "Fight for freedom."

Many marchers had family and friends in Hong Kong.

One protester said, "There is a lot of violence in Hong Kong."

The police surround people and fire tear gas at them."

Kan added, "Every weekend I wake up and watch the news. We need to tell the world what's happening."

Protesters put demands on the British government.

Ying told Socialist Worker, "Britain has been exporting a lot of weapons to Hong Kong. We need to let people know that's not ok."

Another demonstrator said, "We want the British government to issue a

declaration condemning what is happening."

A loud counter-protest in support of the Chinese state taunted the protest.

Shao Jiang is a survivor of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, when China used tanks to

smash a mass movement off the streets.

Shao told Socialist Worker that the counter-protest was the result of a "global campaign by Chinese embassies".

He said, "I've said to those protesters, isn't it good that you can practice freedom of assembly?"

"Try practising it in China."

The movement, which has seen Hong Kong's first general strike in over half a century, has worried the authorities.

But many fear that they will ramp up repression in response.

As one protester put it, "Beijing would never allow the movement to win."



**A protester in London**

**PICTURE GUY SMALLMAN**

## **Britain can't be trusted**

**SOME PROTESTERS** want Britain to intervene in Hong Kong, arguing that Britain has a specific responsibility.

Britain handed Hong Kong back to China in 1997 under a "One Country, Two Systems" policy. This means that people in Hong Kong enjoy more rights and freedoms than those in China.

Hong Kong resident Greg Hodge wrote in the Hong Kong Free Press last week that Britain must protect this agreement. He said Britain must "stop idly watching and fulfil its obligations".

Britain could and

should immediately stop sanctioning arms sales to Hong Kong.

But the British state can't be trusted to protect ordinary people in Hong Kong or anywhere else.

More than two million people protested against the extradition bill in Hong Kong in June—a quarter of the population.

Earlier this month, workers staged the first general strike in over half a century.

The Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions estimated that 350,000 workers took part. More of this, not appeals to imperialist states, is the way to win.